

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided. Applicant also notes with appreciation Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statements filed in the present application by the return of the initialed and signed PTO-1449 forms and the Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicant's claim for priority and receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents in the Official Action.

Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 19-27 will have been added. Claims 1-27 are pending for consideration by the Examiner. Applicant notes that newly-added claims 19-27 generally correspond to original claims 1-9, and recite, *inter alia*, a digital camera having an image pick-up device and a body.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Publication No. 2003/0156832 A1 to NOMURA et al. (in which present Inventor Nomura is an inventor), finding that this reference teaches all of the limitations of the above claims.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection and notes that NOMURA is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Specifically, Applicant notes that the two Japanese priority patent applications (*i.e.*, Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2002-247338, filed August 27, 2002; and 2003-25418, filed February 3, 2003) each have Japanese filing dates that are before the February 20, 2003 U.S. filing date of the NOMURA et al. publication. In this regard, and in order to expedite the allowance of the present application, Applicant submits herewith verified translations of both priority Japanese Patent Applications, thereby perfecting priority of the

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present application under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and removing NOMURA et al. as a reference. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in due course.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant thus respectfully submits that each and every pending claim in the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejection, and allowance of all pending claims in the present application.

Should there be any questions regarding this paper or the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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